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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
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| 10/568,142 | 11/07/2006 | Helen Francis-Lang | 05-967-B5 | 6296 |
| 63572 | 7590 | 11/19/2008 | EXAMINER | |
| MCDONNELL BOEHNEN HULBERT @ BERGHOFF LLP | | | YAO, LEI | |
| 300 SOUTH WACKER DRIVE | | | | |
| SUITE 3100 | | | ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

| | | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|--|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. | Applicant(s) | |
| | 10/568,142 | FRANCIS-LANG ET AL. | |
| | Examiner | Art Unit | |
| | LEI YAO | 1642 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 February 2006.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) 1-24 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application

6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

Restriction is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 and 372.

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.499, applicant is required, in reply to this action, to elect a single invention to which the claims must be restricted.

Group 1, claim(s) 1-12, 16-19, drawn to a method of identifying a candidate beta catenin pathway modulating agent in a system comprising SULF polypeptide and test the compound in a mouse model.

Group 2, claim(s) 1-12, 16-19, drawn to a method of identifying a candidate beta catenin pathway modulating agent in a system comprising SULF nucleic acid and test the compound in a mouse model.

Group 3, claim(s) 13-15, 20-22, drawn to a method for modulating a beta catenin pathway of a cell comprising contacting a cell defective in beta catenin function and administering the modulator in an animal with defect in beta catenin function and modulator binds to SULF polypeptide.

Group 4, claim(s) 20-22, drawn to a method for modulating a beta catenin pathway of a cell comprising contacting a cell defective in beta catenin function and administering the modulator in an animal with defect in beta catenin function and modulator binds to SULF nucleic acid.

Group 5, claim(s) 23-24, drawn to a method for diagnosing a disease in a patient comprising a cancer by detecting the SULF expression.

A national stage application shall relate to one invention only or to a group of inventions so linked as to form a single general inventive concept. When claims to different categories are present in the application, the claims will be considered to have unity of invention if the claims are drawn only to one of the following combinations of categories: (1) A product and a process specially adapted for the manufacture of said product; or (2) A product and a process of use of said product; or (3) A product, a process specially adapted for the manufacture of the said product, and a use of the said product; or (4) A process and an apparatus or means specifically designed for carrying out the said process; or (5) A

product, a process specially adapted for the manufacture of the said product, and an apparatus or means specifically designed for carrying out the said process. If multiple products, processes of manufacture or uses are claimed, the first invention of the category first mentioned in the claims of the application will be considered as the main invention in the claims, see PCT article 17(3) (a) and 1.476 (c), 37 C.F.R. 1.475(b) and (d). Group I will be the main invention. After that, all other products and methods will be broken out as separate groups (see 37 CFR 1.475(d).)

According to PCT Rule 13.2, unity of invention exists only when the shared same or corresponding technical feature is a contribution over the prior art. The inventions listed as group I-IV do not relate to a single general invention concept because they lack the same or corresponding special technical feature. The technical feature of group 1 is drawn to a method of identifying a modulator for beta catenin pathway comprising the assay system comprising a SULF polypeptide which is shown by Kakinuma et al., (J of Neu Res vol 77 page 653-61, 2004), who teach that modulator including antisense molecules regulating Sulfatase expression and functions in the beta catenin pathway. Since the invention Group 1 does not make a contribution over the prior art and since the technical feature of the Group 1 is not a special technical feature, the unity of inventions (Group 1-4) is lacking.

In addition, according to PCT rule 13.2, unity of invention exists only when there is a shared same or corresponding special technical feature among the claimed inventions. Group 5 is directed to a method of diagnosing a disease comprising a cancer by detecting the SULF expression, which has the special technical feature of patient with a cancer, not shared by other groups.

Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

Election of Species

This application contains claims directed to more than one species of the generic invention in the groups above. These species are deemed to lack unity of invention because they are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1. The species are as follows:

A. Candidate beta catenin modulating agent:

small molecule, antibody, Antisense oligomer (nucleic acid), PMO (nucleic acid).

B. Assay system:

Apoptosis, cell proliferation, angiogenesis, hypoxic induction.

C. cancer:

cancer listed in table I of the specification (page 39, table 1).

If Applicant elects any invention from group 1-4, Applicant is required to elect a single modulating agent from A, and a single assay system from B. For example, antibody from A and cell proliferation from B.

If Applicant elects any invention from group 5, Applicant is required to elect a single cancer condition from the table I (page 39 of the specification).

The species listed above do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, the species lack the same or

corresponding special technical features for the following reasons: each species has special structure and function. For example, the beta catenin pathway may be modulated with antibody modulator, not small molecule.

The reply must also identify the claims readable on the elected species, including any claims subsequently added. An argument that a claim is allowable or that all claims are generic is considered non-responsive unless accompanied by an election.

Upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by 37 CFR 1.141.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lei Yao, Ph.D. whose telephone number is 571-272-3112. The examiner can normally be reached on 8am-6.00pm Monday-Thursday.

Any inquiry of a general nature, matching or file papers or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to Kim Downing for Art Unit 1642 whose telephone number is 571-272-0521

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Larry Helms can be reached on 571-272-0832. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Lei Yao, Ph.D./
Examiner, Art Unit 1642

/Larry R. Helms/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1643